the information required by §1780.33. Applicants seeking only an eligibility determination, should contact the processing office to obtain a list of the items needed to make this determination. An eligibility determination for loan or grant assistance will not give an applicant priority for funding as set forth in §1780.17.

(d) Applications that are not developed in a reasonable period of time taking into account the size and complexity of the proposed project may be removed from the State's active file. Applicants will be consulted prior to taking such action.

(e) Starting with the earliest discussions with prospective applicants or review of applications and continuing throughout application processing, environmental issues must be considered. Throughout the application process the State Environmental Coordinator will discuss with the applicant and their engineer, environmental review requirements for evaluating a project's potential for environment impacts. This should provide flexibility to consider alternatives to the project and develop methods to mitigate identified adverse environmental impacts. The environmental review requirements shall be performed simultaneously and concurrently with the project's engineering design and mitigation measures integrated into the design to minimize any adverse environmental impacts.

§ 1780.32 Timeframes for application processing.

(a) The processing office will determine if the application is properly assembled. If not, the applicant will be notified within fifteen federal working days as to what additional submittal items are needed.

(b) The processing and approval offices will coordinate their reviews to ensure that the applicant is advised about eligibility and anticipated fund availability within 45 days of the receipt of a completed application.

§ 1780.33 Application requirements.

An initial application consists of the following:

(a) One copy of a completed SF 424.2;

(b) A copy of the State intergovernmental comments or one copy of the filed application for State intergovernmental review; and

(c) Two copies of the preliminary engineering report (PER) for the project.

(1) The PER may be submitted to the processing office prior to the rest of the application material if the applicant desires a preliminary review.

(2) The processing office will forward one copy of the PER with comments and recommendations to the State staff engineer for review upon receipt from the applicant.

(3) The State staff will consult with the applicant's engineer as appropriate to resolve any questions concerning the PER and any environmental concerns. Written comments will be provided by the State staff engineer and State Environmental Coordinator to the processing office to meet eligibility determination time lines.

(d) Written certification that other credit is not available.

(e) Supporting documentation necessary to make an eligibility determination such as financial statements, audits, organizational documents, or existing debt instruments. The processing office will advise applicants regarding the required documents. Applicants that are indebted to RUS will not need to submit documents already on file with the processing office.

(f) Form RD 1940–20, ''Request for Environmental Information'' or comparable information. The applicant should consult with the processing office to determine what information should be included with this form.

(g) The applicants Internal Revenue Service Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN). The TIN will be used by the Agency to assign a case number which will be the applicant's or transferee's TIN preceded by State and County Code numbers. Only one case number will be assigned to each applicant regardless of the number of loans or grants or number of separate facilities, unless an exception is authorized by the National Office.

(h) Other Forms and certifications. Applicants will be required to submit the following items to the processing office, upon notification from the processing office to proceed with further development of the full application: